



Nota Bene News from the Yale Library

Yale's Russian Maps

Soon after I arrived in western Russia last summer to write an article for *Smithsonian* magazine, I was looking at what I thought of as my "Yale maps." As our car approached a police checkpoint, our driver warned me to hide the maps immediately, lest we risk being detained. In the upper right corner, many of the maps were marked CEKPETHO—SECRET.

During six weeks of research on wilderness preservation, among my most valuable resources were my Yale maps of Russia. Weeks earlier, Yale's Map Collection staff had photocopied them for me from a remarkable collection labeled merely as "Series 35 1990."

In the early 1990s, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, an American dealer contacted a small number of libraries, including Yale, offering formerly classified maps used by the Russian military. In 1994, the Map Collection and the Slavic Collection collaborated to purchase the full set. It represented both a considerable bargain (the cost for each sheet was less than Americans often pay for a hiking map) and a considerable investment (the set contained approximately 3,500 sheets). If arrayed edge to edge to depict all of Russia, the maps would cover a floor larger than a basketball court. At a scale of 1:200,000 (approximately an inch to three miles), these topographic maps made Siberian mountains seem as easy to explore as Rocky Mountain National Park.

The maps represent a resource unavailable to many Russians. As I prepared my research trip, I asked experts on Russian wilderness areas how to obtain topographic maps of the territories to which I would travel: near the Ukraine, into the Urals, down to the border of the Tuva republic, across to Lake Baikal, on to Sakhalin Island and the Pacific Ocean. I heard that no good maps were available.

Then I learned about the Yale maps, and I'll never forget my first sight of them in the Map Room. I had known, for example, that I would be traveling in Russia to areas that were famous breeding centers for red-crowned and daurian cranes; on the Yale maps I saw clearly the abundant marshes and oxbow lakes near the Chinese border that made ideal crane habitat. I had known I would be visiting the headwaters of the Lena River; on the Yale maps I saw where the Lena rises, just across a ridge line that bounds the watershed of Lake Baikal.



Detail of a Russian topographical map showing the marshes and oxbow lakes where cranes breed near the Amur River border between Manchuria and far-eastern Russia.

Until I reached Russia, however, I could not know how Russians would respond to Yale's "secret" maps. After our driver told me to hide my maps at a checkpoint, another Russian told me the driver misunderstood current law: the maps were now legal. Later, an official at one wilderness reserve, who told me that his reserve for years had possessed a few sheets similar to Yale's maps, explained that he was no longer prohibited from showing his maps to visitors.

As I traveled to headquarters of wilderness reserves, however, I rarely saw topographic maps. Only one reserve had any map to offer a visiting researcher. In another reserve, the longtime head of the ranger service requested permission to make copies of my photocopies of the Yale maps, because the reserve had nothing similar. Once or twice, Russian officials jocularly referred to these maps as my "spy maps."

After I returned, an American expert on Russian cartography law reassured me that those officials were just joking and that carrying such maps in Russia was legal. He supposed my only risk had been meeting an ill-informed Russian police officer who took literally the word SECRET.

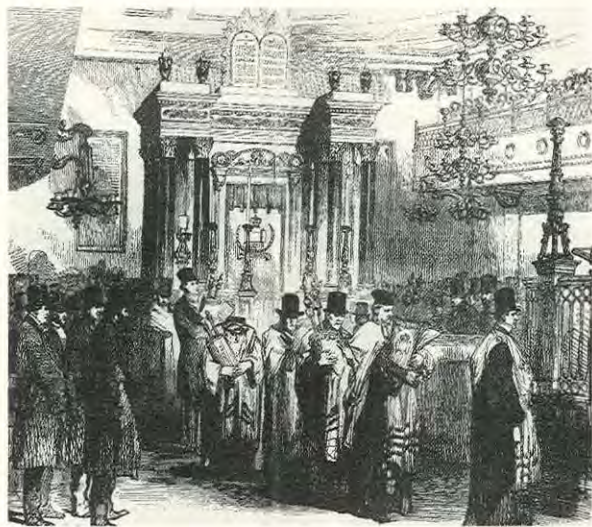
—FRED STREBEIGH, *Lecturer, Department of English; lecturer in Environmental Writing, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.*



The Shane Collection of British Judaica

The Yale University Library recently acquired the British Judaica collection of Asher Lewis Shane (1911–1991). Shane, who established a successful real estate development company in Great Britain, was president of the Jewish Historical Society. He began collecting as a young man and over the years developed a large library of antiquarian and rare books. His interest focused on the history of European Jewry, particularly in England.

The collection, which consists of about 800 items, includes important primary source material relating to the communal life of British Jewry from the middle of the nineteenth century up to the 1970s. Of particular interest are the publications of synagogues in London and other centers of Jewish life in England commemorating special occasions in the life of the congregation or major events taking place in Great Britain. These include sermons preached by the local rabbi, editions of special prayer services in honor of the consecration of a synagogue, and memorial services for notable Jewish personalities and for members of the royal family. For example, the collection includes the order of the special prayer services held at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogues in England on the occasion of the burial of Queen Victoria in 1901. It also includes the order of the celebratory service held in honor of the accession of her son, Edward, to the throne. Among the prayer pamphlets found in



The consecration of the synagogue in St. Albans Place, St. James's, London. This engraving from the *Illustrated London News*, 1851 adorns the order of a service commemorating the bicentenary of the foundation of the Western (Westminster) Synagogue in 1961. From the Shane Collection of British Judaica.

the collection are those used in many synagogues when England entered World Wars I and II and in memory of those who died in those wars. The bylaws and financial records of many congregations are also included in the collection as well as the publications of lectures on various topics delivered there.

An item of special interest is an 1868 facsimile copy of the letter written by Menashe ben Israel to Oliver Cromwell in 1655 requesting that Jews be allowed to reside in England again after a hiatus of 365 years. Jews had been expelled by Edward I in 1290—the first of the great general expulsions of the Middle Ages. From that time on, though there most probably were individual Jews who lived or spent time in Great Britain, there was no official—or for that matter unofficial—presence of Jews in England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales. Menashe ben Israel (1604–1657) was the head of the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish community in Amsterdam and it was thanks to his efforts that the ban on Jewish residence in Great Britain finally loosened. The Jews who began arriving in England as a result of Ben Israel's intercession were of Spanish and Portuguese origin, descendants of Jews expelled from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1496. In an ironic twist of history, England, the first country to expel its Jewish population, became a refuge for those Jews who were the victims of the last and most devastating expulsions of Jews from European lands.

The collection provides a broad picture of Jewish religious, communal and social life over a period of more than a hundred years. An added attraction of the collection is that it is almost entirely in English, or in Hebrew with English translation. It is an important addition to the Yale Library Judaica collection and will furnish research material for both students and senior scholars for years to come. —NS



Yale-China Film Preserved

Last April, Sterling Memorial Library's Manuscripts and Archives Department was awarded a second film preservation grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) for preservation of films from the Yale-China Association records. Yale University was one of seventeen institutions that received partnership grants from the foundation, which links nonprofit and public archives with commercial laboratories donating preservation services. These grants of services target films made outside the commercial mainstream and fund the creation of both preservation masters and access copies.

During its hundred-year history, the Yale-China Association helped to found the Hsiang-Ya Hospital, Medical College, and Nursing School; the Yali Middle School; and Huachung University in Wuhan. The preservation project will preserve forty-one reels (approximately 30 films) of silent, black and white film made by the Yale alumni participants (known as Bachelors) in the Yale-China Association program between 1928–1947. The films provide an excellent primary source for the study of public health practice and the state of medical care facilities in pre-war China, and education of young Chinese students by Americans. They include travel footage covering scenes of various towns and cities as well as major sites such as the Yangtze River and the Great Wall. The films also document the close relationships that developed between the Chinese and their American visitors. One film covers military activity in Shanghai ca. 1943, during its occupation by the Japanese. These materials are currently unavailable to researchers for viewing due to their fragility.

Kirsten Jensen developed the proposal as part of her work on Yale media records for the Archives 300 project, one of the library's contributions to Yale's tercentennial celebration. This grant reinforces the department's commitment to preserve the whole range of formats and media on which Yale history is recorded. These materials will be processed during the fall of 1999 and spring of 2000; they will be available for public use later next year—just in time for Yale-China's centennial celebration in 2001. —KMJ

Victorian Periodicals at Yale

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (RSVP) held its 1999 conference at Yale on September 17 and 18. The meeting was co-sponsored by Sterling Memorial Library and the Department of English. The University Library welcomed RSVP to Yale by mounting five special exhibits on Victorian topics.

The British Empire and its periodical press both grew rapidly in the Victorian period, and imperial themes appear frequently in news reports, commentaries, fiction, humor, illustrations and maps. Margaret Powell and Susanne Roberts surveyed all of these areas with an exhibit in the Sterling Nave entitled *Imperial Views, Colonial Subjects: Victorian Periodicals and the British Empire*. This exhibit can still be viewed online at <http://www.library.yale.edu/~mpowell/victorianper.html>.

With the help of technologies such as chromolithography and color letterpress printing, Victorian printers



This exuberant article from *The Illustrated Magazine* (Vol. 11) January 1844 was recently on display in Sterling Memorial Library.

produced vivid and sometimes highly architectural designs. Arts of the Book Curator Bridget Burke exhibited samples of their work in the Sterling elevator cases with *Victorian Artistic Printing and the Grammar of Ornament: Selections from the Arts of the Book Collection*.

The Gilmore Music Library showcased a recently acquired collection with *Female Pipings in Eden: Letters and a Scrapbook from Ethel Smyth*. Smyth (1858–1944) was the leading English female composer of her era, and a prominent writer and feminist activist as well. Richard Boursy prepared the exhibit.

Victorian Periodicals from the Beinecke Collections displayed a variety of the Beinecke Library's holdings, ranging from the initial installment of *A Tale of Two Cities* to the undergraduate magazine containing Swinburne's first published work. The exhibit was prepared by Vincent Giroud.

In the Day Missions Room of the Divinity Library, Martha Lund Smalley and Geraldine Dickel mounted an exhibit on *Victorian Missionary Periodicals*. Numerous missionary societies published magazines filled with colorful accounts of their activities in distant and exotic lands. This exhibit will continue until January 15, and is also available online at <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/exhibit1.htm>.

The Library published an attractively illustrated keepsake that contains more information about each of the exhibits as well as a message from University Librarian Scott Bennett, who served as President of RSVP from 1977 to 1982. —RB

Yale University Library Selectors Directory

Associate University Librarian,
Director of Collection Development

Ann Shumelda Okerson SML 225 432-1763 ann.okerson@yale.edu

Requests for new materials in all formats should be directed to the appropriate subject specialist below or, as a last resort, to the e-mail account book.requests@yale.edu. The area code for the Lewis Walpole Library is 860; for all other phone numbers it is 203. A slightly expanded list can be found at <http://www.library.yale.edu/NotaBene/selector.htm>.

Subject	Selector/Address	Telephone/E-Mail
Accounting and Finance	Judith Carnes SSL	432-3306 judith.carnes@yale.edu
African Studies	Dorothy Woodson SML 317	432-1883 dorothy.woodson@yale.edu
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Education	James Shetler SSL	432-3309 james.shetler@yale.edu
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Rare Books & Manuscripts (BRBL)		
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Catalog History on Display

In his introduction to *The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library: A Guide to the Collections*, Ralph Franklin notes that "to the making of catalogs there is no end." Indeed, at Yale, librarians have been making catalogs for more than 250 years, with no end in sight. Recently installed in Sterling Memorial Library is an exhibit titled *This Old Catalog*, which depicts the history of the library's catalog from 1742, when the first catalog was created, through 2002, when most of the activity associated with the library's current retrospective conversion undertaking will be complete.

The focus of the exhibit is the physical format of the catalog and the influences that shaped its evolution from a handwritten listing of approximately 2,600 volumes to a dynamic, interactive database that in a few short years will contain well over 6 million records.

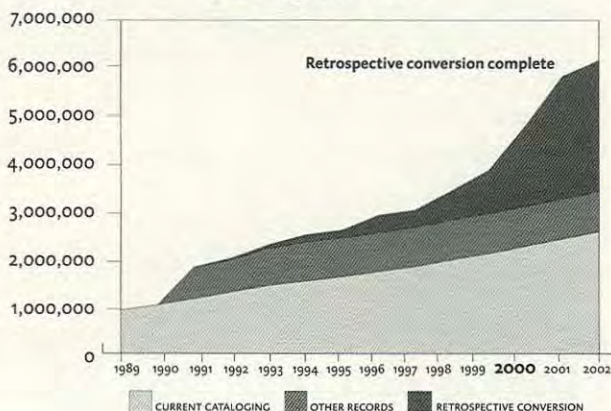
This Old Catalog clearly illustrates how technology has played an increasingly significant role in transforming both the form and the function of the library catalog, especially since the turn of the century. The traditional purpose of a library catalog is to provide the reader with the location of a particular item in a given collection. Although that purpose still holds, new purposes are easy to imagine and in fact abound in today's increasingly electronic and highly networked environment.

In many of today's catalogs, including Yale's new



Construction of Sterling Dormitories (Trumbull College), February 1930. The image is part of the exhibit *The Residential Colleges, 1930-1940*, on display in the Memorabilia Room through December. The exhibit is the final installment of a larger exhibition, *Building a University, 1919-1940*, available online at <http://www.library.yale.edu/archives300/exhibits/building/building.html>.

ORBIS Database Growth



Fully Converted Collections: Art & Architecture Library, Beinecke Library, British Art Library, Cross Campus Library, Divinity School, Drama Library, Lewis Walpole Library, Medical/EPH Library, Music Library

Orbis on the Web (see related article above), the reader is led from a bibliographic record describing a particular item to the actual item itself, which may or may not reside in the library's collection. This transformation of the purposes of the library catalog demonstrates its remarkable ability to integrate the old with the new and to put information in the hands of the reader. —MO'HC



Nota Bene is published during the academic year to acquaint the Yale community and others interested with the resources of the Yale libraries. Please direct comments and questions to Susanne Roberts, Editor, Research Services and Collections Department, Sterling Memorial Library (phone: 432-1762, e-mail: susanne.roberts@yale.edu).

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Scott Bennett, University Librarian
Susanne F. Roberts, Editor



Calendar of Exhibits

BECTON CENTER

History of the Sheffield Scientific School
through May

Materials from the Manuscripts and Archives Dept., SML
Sponsored by the Engineering Library

BEINECKE RARE BOOK LIBRARY

Goethe the Scientist
through December 22

DIVINITY LIBRARY

Victorian Missionary Periodicals
through January 15

MEDICAL LIBRARY

Medicine and the Media
through January

MUSIC LIBRARY

Guitar and Lute Music at Yale
through December

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Whiffenpoofs of Yale University, 1909-1999
through mid-January

Infinite Perspectives: Two Thousand Years of Three-Dimensional Mapmaking
through January

Hitting the Road: Road Maps from the Map Collection of Yale University Library
through December

MEMORABILIA ROOM

Building a University, 1919-1940.
Part V: The Residential Colleges, 1930-1940
through December

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

A Treasure House in Farmington:
The Lewis Walpole Library
through January 9

Please see our web site: <http://www.yale.edu/NotaBene/nbhome.htm>
for a complete listing of exhibits.



An array of miniature bookplates from the Bookplate Collection.

Nota Bene  *News from the Yale Library*

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